

The Courier

a newsletter from your friends at
First Baptist Church
in Hamilton, Ohio



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

December, 2015

From Daniel's Den Silent Night

One of the all-time favorite Christmas song is "Silent Night". I love to sing it at the end of our Christmas Eve Service with the glow of the candles and the warmth of the people I love around me. But, one of my favorite new Christmas songs is "Labor Of Love" by Andrew Peterson. It stands in stark contrast to our traditional favorite "Silent Night". The "Labor Of Love" begins:

It was not a silent night
There was blood on the ground
You could hear a woman cry
In the alleyways that night
On the streets of David's town

And the stable was not clean
And the cobblestones were cold
And little Mary full of grace
With the tears upon her face
Had no mother's hand to hold

It was a labor of pain
It was a cold sky above
But for the girl on the ground in the dark
With every beat of her beautiful heart
It was a labor of love

In truth, it was not a silent night. Palestine was occupied by the Roman soldiers. It was not a free country. The whole reason Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem was because of a tax.

Luke 2:1-5 *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.*

The gospel story is planted in the geo-political, socio-economic climate of oppression and brutality. People lived in fear. Darkness reigned.

It is not a silent night today either. The noise of political campaigning shrieks loudly in our ears. The threat of terrorists causes us to cower in fear. We struggle with the justice issues of immigration, homelessness, and human trafficking. We shake our heads at the moral decline of humanity, the commercialism of our celebrations, and the realities of shrinking global connections yet increased loneliness.

It is not a silent night today either. All is not calm; all is not bright.

On that night of blood and weeping and oppression, a tiny light broke forth. In the whimper of the newborn can the whisper of hope who was for all people.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

I encourage us to not let the darkness overcome the light of Christ in our hearts this Christmas season. The only way to push back the darkness is to be the light. Do not argue about "Happy Holidays". Be the "Merry Christmas" in peoples' lives. It was Not a Silent Night. Do not be silent this Christmas season. Share the Light of Christ!

Loving Jesus,
Pastor Dan





American Baptist Women's Ministries

Secretary of the Haitian Baptist Convention in Haiti and also for the medical and theological work there.

Christmas Gatherings

Holloway Circle and Abell Circle will be going to Berkeley Square's Party Room to have a pot luck brunch together on Tuesday, December 8th, at 10:30 a.m. Call Carolyn Dudley (523-8007) for details.

Smith Circle will meet at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 8th, at Berkeley Square in the *Haith Room* for their Christmas gathering.



Operation Christmas Child

Wow! We delivered **170** boxes for the Operation Christmas Child project! That is **many** more than we have had in recent years.

Thanks so much to all who participated. Hope your Christmas is brighter knowing that you have made a difference in a child's life.

-In His Service
Nancy Whipple
ABW President



There will be **no** monthly work day at Matthew 25: Ministries during the month of December.

Missionary for the Month of **December**:

Debbie & Keith Myers Mexico

Debbie and Keith are serving in Central, Mexico. They are partnering with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico, AR (CICEM) to provide pastoral accompaniment to the indigenous churches. This training consists of training pastors, church leaders, youth leaders and teachers for the children. They travel to six different areas outside of Puebla to serve and empower the people.

David & Leslie Turley Japan

David and Leslie Turley serve on the island of Okinawa, Japan. David works with the Okinawa Baptist Convention (OBC), teaching Bible classes, doing pulpit supply, and working in leadership development. Leslie is an administrator at Okinawa Christian School International and also assists with convention activities.

There will be a Christmas luncheon for all of the volunteers at Matthew 25 on Thursday, December 10th, at 11:30 a.m. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. Anyone who have volunteered even one time is welcome to come to the luncheon. Please sign the list on the bulletin board.

KeenAger **December Outing**

Our December outing will be a trip to the Richard's Pizza on Nilles Road in Fairfield to make your own pizza. You can also order your own lunch if you do not want to make a pizza. We will meet at Richard's at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 10th. The cost is \$6.75 which includes a 4" pizza and drink. Please sign the list on the bulletin board.

-KeenAger Activity Committee
Dave & Janet Hazelwood,

Bible Book of the Month Luke

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
Luke 19:10 (TEV)

Luke presents Christ as compassionate toward women, the poor, the distressed, the bereaved, the humble. In Luke we see God manifest in flesh—the humanity of our Lord as He is crucified, resurrects, and returns to God in heaven.

PRAY that we may engage in a Christian style of celebration this Christmas. Pray for the General

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Aaron's Attic

Entertaining Ourselves to Death

As we enter the Christmas season (which it appears some advertisers mistake for beginning in mid-November), we must prepare to be bombarded with countless distractions. My hope in writing this article is to encourage you to call a distraction for what it is, fend it off, and invest your time in what matters. I know all too well that this is not an easy task and I am just as susceptible to falling prey to distraction as anyone else. The danger in succumbing to distractions is that they rob us of time; time that would be better spent in quiet times with the Lord, in bonding times with our families and friends, and in service to our neighbors. Perhaps the chief thief of distraction is evident in the time we let slip away in entertaining ourselves.

Now, I must begin my saying that I am not a killjoy. I have my favorite television shows, a list of beloved sports teams and athletes (UC basketball, OSU football, Bengals, Reds, etc...), I love art museums, movies (especially superhero/comic book based ones), hiking, reading classics, going to Shakespeare performances, hanging out with Theophilus & Valerie, and frequently playing board games with Valerie. I am someone who keeps himself well entertained. But the questions that I must ask myself are: At what cost? To what end? Do I spend more time on what is trivial (like sports or movies or TV shows) or on what is important (time with the Lord or time with family)?

I'm currently reading *Amusing Ourselves to Death* by Neil Postman. It's a book that was written in 1985 but speaks with incredible relevance to our culture in 2015. It begins by comparing George Orwell's view of how the world would be in *1984* to Aldous Huxley's prophecy of the future in *Brave New World*. Postman points out that Orwell's prediction that "we will be overcome by an externally imposed oppression" failed to come true but Huxley's view that "people will come to love their oppression, to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think" may be spot on. He continues, "Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture." Postman concludes, "In short, Orwell feared that what we hate will ruin us. Huxley feared that what we love will ruin us." Does this ring a (warning) bell as you think about our culture or as you reflect on your life? So how do we keep the trivial things of culture, even if they are things that we 'love,' from distracting us from what is important? What are the 'technologies' (tv, phone, facebook, email, appleTV, Netflix, redbox, espn, hulu, pinterest, amazon, twitter) that take away our time

from the important things?

It is a great soul-evaluating question to ask oneself: Are my loves properly ordered? And does the amount of time that I give to each one reflect a proper order? Now, to be fair, if you're working fulltime (somewhere between 35 to 60 hours a week), then the question really should be is your time outside of work properly structured? What are you giving your time to?

One other excerpt from *Amusing Ourselves to Death* that I must share with you is Postman's description of the telegraph. "The value of telegraphy is undermined by applying the tests of permanence, continuity or coherence. The telegraph is suited only to the flashing of messages, each to be quickly replaced by a more up-to-date message. Facts push other facts into and then out of consciousness at speeds that neither permit nor require evaluation...Telegraph discourse permitted no time for historical perspectives and gave no priority to the qualitative. To the telegraphy, intelligence meant knowing of lots of things, not knowing *about* them." None of us will ever find ourselves in danger of over-indulging in our use of the telegraph. But what if you go back and read that excerpt with Facebook as the subject instead of the telegraph? Or Twitter? Or the weekly banter of sports talk show hosts or columnists? It's striking, isn't it? Postman's speaking of what happened more than 150 years ago but we face the same battle in our culture today: deciphering what really matters in life and investing our time in those things.

This Christmas season, I challenge you (as well as myself) to evaluate what is truly important and what is ultimately a distraction. You don't have to ban yourself from the commercial tinsel of the season but call it out for what it is and spend the majority of your time investing in what matters. It will be good for your walk with the Lord, enriching for your relationships with family and friends, and life-giving to your soul.

—Pastor Aaron Osterbrock





God is continuing to bless MOPS with record numbers! We had more than 30 moms again at our meeting this month including several new moms. Moms were also challenged to pack 20 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. It was exciting to see moms rise to the occasion by packing more than ever before and doubling our goal by packing 40 shoeboxes. Thank you for supporting this life-changing ministry. We are so grateful to those of you who generously give of your time to watch our kids at our monthly meetings. Please specifically pray for those moms who do not have a church home as we seek to intentionally invite them to join us at First Baptist for Christmas.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 15th from 9:30a.m.-11:45a.m. Our topic is *Celebrating Lavishly: The Great Invitation*. The Bible is full of stories of celebration. God wants us to know Him and celebrate the joys of life. This is only possible if we choose to accept God's invitation into His kingdom. God does not want anyone to miss out on the joys of heaven. Aaron Osterbrock will be joining us at our meeting to speak to us about this invitation, the greatest invitation ever given.

Other MOPS events planned for December include the annual MOPS Moms Only Christmas Party on December 3rd at 6:30p.m. in Room 200 at First Baptist Church and the MOPS Bible Study on December 8th from 9:30-11:30a.m. also at First Baptist Church. Please contact me at allison_sommers@yahoo.com if you have any questions or if you want to get involved in MOPS.

Serving Him,
Allison Sommers



Budget Status Report

The Month of October, 2015

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$74,133
Offerings	<u>49,714</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$24,419)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$70,568
Offerings	<u>49,714</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$20,854)

The Year Through October, 2015

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$581,605
Offerings	<u>572,667</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$8,938)

Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$562,030
Offerings	<u>572,667</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$10,637

–The Board Of Trustees

Motorized Wheelchair Looking For A Home

If anyone in your family would have need of a motorized wheelchair we have one available. It was owned by Kathy Reynolds and has been recently stored at the church. Her family has given permission to pass it on to anyone who would have use for it. Please see a trustee or call Ellie in the church office if you are interested.

Adopt-A-Child/Adopt An Angel For Christmas

The Salvation Army is once again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Child or Adopt-An-Angel program. We are asking the church family to become involved in helping the less fortunate. We need your kind hearts to help out the families that are less fortunate in our own community. There are many families in need. Without you this program would not be possible. The Salvation Army does a great job helping families in our local area, Butler County. That is very important!

Names are available. Please look for Mike Gipson in the connector to get your names.

Thanks for the past years that you have helped and let's make this a great year as we help those less fortunate families in Butler County!

–Michael Gipson



Awana News!

December

- 2th - Regular Club Night
- 9th - Christmas Parties (Individual Clubs)
- 16th - No Club - Church Family Christmas Banquet
- 23th - No Club - Christmas Week
- 30st - No Club - Christmas Week

Awana Christmas Parties!!

December 9th - 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Individual clubs will hold their Christmas celebrations on December 9. Leaders will let you know what will happen with each of your clubs. And remember: Awana always takes a Christmas break for the last three weeks in December. This will give the kids a break from the Wednesday night program and come back on January refreshed and ready to go! Have a Merry Christmas!

–Claire Metzger, Cheryl Motzer,
Awana Leaders

Giant Christmas Card

This is the 6th year we are doing the giant Christmas card for the church family to sign! Check out the display of the previous years. This year we wanted to have a little fun with the church staff and show you a not so serious side of us. Please stop by and sign the card for all to see, make a small donation in the red box, and take a mini version of the card for yourself. All monies collected will be used to take names for the Adopt-a-child Christmas program that Mike Gipson heads up. This helps finish the last remaining names if not taken. I know many of you already take a name! Please sign the card and take the mini version then. Thanks for your support for this and the Children's Ministry Team!

Canned Food Drive

From our first night in Awana we have been collecting canned goods - the yummiest the better! - all the way through through Thanksgiving. The Sunday after Thanksgiving there was a large display outside the sanctuary that shared how blessed we are and how much we were able to give. This food all went to the food pantry at Ellie's church (Laurel Avenue Church of Christ) and was **greatly** appreciated. So a big thank you for all the help!

Church History

The Church History Committee believes we have an obligation to the church membership to periodically report the progress on our work and the procedures to bring our church history complete up to the year 2016. The first few months produced little because of restructuring the committee twice and the difficulty of locating church documents. Apparently these documents, minutes of business and Advisory Meeting, Annual Reports, Church Bulletins and Couriers, newspaper articles and other special event documents were not stored in a common location. The big break came as the result of a conversation with John Motzer a few months ago. John told us that he had seen a few boxes labeled "Church History" in a storage room on the ground floor on the southeast corner of the church building. The second break came when Pastor Clemens located a file cabinet in Jeremy's old office containing several years of Couriers. These two discoveries provided a large percent of the material we have in hand.

All these documents will be separated into groups, with each group pertaining to each Pastor. Each of the four committee members is assigned a group of documents and is responsible for closely reviewing and making notes on subjects which that individual believes to be history worthy. This reviewing is on that individual's personal time. Then each week the committee meets and discusses each individual's recommendations. From this discussion a history worthy document contains subjects agreed to all members. This document is then the responsibility of one member to be put in a typed document. This procedure is repeated weekly.

These final documents are basically a combination of factual statements, not very interesting or readable form. Then one member will add the words and adjust the factual documents to an interesting readable form. As of this writing we have several pages of typed statements which we believe cover Pastors Hurst and Scripture and beginning of Pastor Milan Johnson's term.

There have been two changes in our committee. Pam Howard resigned due to a new job which requires more of her day time hours. We thank Pam for her contribution and success in her new job.

We have also gained a new member, Teri Horsley, whose expertise is in the area of making documents interesting and readable. We welcome Teri to our committee. We want to thank everyone who has contributed documents and information. Keep it coming. We covet your prayers, the most important support you can give us.

–The Church History Committee
Nancy Follmer, Naomi Hoskins,
Teri Horsley, and Jim Powell



From The Heart Of
Becky

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Come See The Light

“Everything was created through him . . . What came into the existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Light-Life out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.”

– John 1:3-5, The Message

My Child,

My Son, Jesus, came into your world as Life itself—powerful, dynamic Life—full of energy and hope. He came into your world as Light, blazing out of the darkness, pushing back the shadows.

All of this Life and Light was contained in a human being, so people didn’t understand who they were dealing with when they met Him. He looked like an ordinary person. But He was with Me when the world was made. Every single thing in creation was created through Him. So no wonder people didn’t quite “see the Light” when they met Him.

Although they stood in darkness and didn’t understand the Light, they could never put it out? He’s still shining! Let Him shine in you.

The Father of Light,
God



**College Student’s
Christmas Brunch**

Sunday, December 20th
9:30 a.m.

Family Center
First Baptist Church

Hope to see you there!



We continue to provide a meal at Serve City on the 3rd Monday of each month. Thanks to our MOPS members for making the October meal. November, January, March, May, and July our friends at Harvest Christian Fellowship Church organized by Sharon Braun Benzing will be serving. December, Nancy and Karen will be serving meatloaf donated by Zeke Bowling. February, Nancy’s service sorority group will do the meal. April is the Chancel Choir. June, the ABW Circles will serve. August, the meal will be served by friends of Nancy. Call Nancy with any questions at 863-2309. Your support is appreciated.

–Nancy Whipple
Women’s Ministry Team



Winter Reminder!

If Hamilton City schools do not open on a weekday because of snow or ice, the church will not be open that day either.

–The Board of Trustees



The Mitten Tree is in the narthex and has already been blessed with hats, gloves and scarfs. Any other clothing such as coats are needed and would be gratefully accepted if laid under the tree. All these gifts go to local charities for children and families in the Hamilton area who are in need this winter. These will be donated after Christmas.



Christmas Poinsettias 2015

In Loving Memory Of

Elden & Jane Anderson Rod & Lois Anderson
 Evelyn Apwisch Betty & Shelby Martin
 Willie W. Baker Jim & Mag Baker
 Wade Ezekiel Bowling . Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Marjorie Braun Paul Braun
 Robert Braun Mary Flo Braun
 Howard & Peggy Burtis Bob Burtis
 Jacob Burtis Bob Burtis
 Raymond Click Jr. Sharon Click
 Roger Day Janet & Josh Day
 Jon Follmer Nancy Follmer
 Robert & Ines Frost
 Barbara, Brian, Kaitlyn & Lyndsay Begley
 LaVerne Gerth Ron Gerth
 Alice & Walter Gibbs Mag & Jim Baker
 Cletus & Ruth Goble Merle Grubbs
 Lois Grubbs Merle Grubbs
 Toni Grubbs Merle Grubbs
 Charles Hampton Jerry & Loretta Hampton
 Kenneth Hendricks Barbara Hendricks
 Everett Hoskins Nancy Follmer
 Jack Maddox Evelyn Maddox
 Julian & Georgianna Marcum Bob Burtis
 Drew Martin Betty & Shelby Martin
 Joy Metzger Chris & Claire Metzger,
 Elizabeth Rose, Callum, Ciaran, & Ewan
 Lawrence & Cecilia O'Hara . . Mike & Jill O'Hara
 Don & Martha Perry Crystal Raisor
 Albert & Flo Potter Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 Courtney & Anna Profitt . . . Lois & Rod Anderson
 Kathy Reynolds Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Wayne & Ruby Reynolds . Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Andrew Schramm Krys & Sydney Schramm
 George & Martha Schwab . Carl & Jeanette Schwab
 Leona & Robert Shawver Mag & Jim Baker
 Earle & Esther Stanger . . . Bob & Thelma Stanger
 Kelly Stanger Bob & Thelma Stanger
 John & Jane Tyra Jerry & Loretta Hampton
 Julie & Jack Voss Iva Voss
 Nancy & Phil Ward Carl & Jeanette Schwab
 Gladys Witkowski Bette Ruth
 Zachary Witmer Chuck & Lisa Witmer
 David W. Young Mike & Jill O'Hara
 John Joyce Thall
 Oakley, Geneva & John . . Carolyn & Earl Gabbard
 Our parents Zeke & Jewell Bowling
 Our parents Carole & Jerry Busch

Our parents Carolyn & Earl Gabbard
 Christ's crucifixion Ina J. (Flo) Gill

In Honor Of

Lois & Rod Anderson Evelyn Maddox
 Lexie & Alivia Ankrum Mag & Jim Baker
 A. J. Baker Mag & Jim Baker
 Marilyn & Larry Bowling Evelyn Maddox
 Zeke & Jewell Bowling . Larry & Marilyn Bowling
 Wilma Cobb Carm Glover
 Ellie Dinger Nancy Follmer
 Juanita Hazelwood . . Ann Brown & Cathi Thomas
 Shirley Henson Carm Glover
 Nathan & Maxine Miller Betty Ememaker
 Carl Schwab Jeanette Schwab
 Mark Whipple & Natalie Banks Rose Young
 Jack & Judy Young Mike & Jill O'Hara
 Jack & Judy Young Krys & Sydney Schramm

FBC Musicians Joyce Thall
 Great Grandchildren Dolly Houser
 Our Five Grandchildren . Marilyn & Larry Bowling
 My Church Family Nancy Follmer
 Christ's Resurrection Ina J. (Flo) Gill



Christmas Banquet

Wednesday, December 16th

6 o'clock

Enjoy an evening of Christian fellowship as we celebrate the joy of the season with a wonderful meal prepared by our chef, Tim Swicegood. The beautifully decorated tables, each one different as each one is decorated by a different lady, the delicious meal, and a wonderful Christmas Carol sing-a-long. Join us and receive a blessing!

The menu for the evening is Turkey and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Beverage, and a variety of pies. The cost for the dinner will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 12; \$15 for immediate family living in the same household. Make your reservation on the colored sheet in the Fellowship Folder. You won't want to miss out on the joy of receiving an evening of blessings for the entire family!



The Memorial Fund has provided money for several projects this past year. Approval is received from family members prior to designating funds to a project. Following are items purchased and the accounts from which the money was taken:

Welcome Sign
In loving memory of
Everett Hoskins

Nursery Pager System
In loving memory of
Lois Grubbs

Re-do Nursery (Cribs, Nursery Furniture, Paint, Mattresses, Changing Mats, Diapers, & Toys for Nursery & Toddler Rooms)
In loving memory of
LaVerne Gerth

Baker Concrete to repair Crumbling Curbs, etc.
In loving memory of
Jack Maddox

The gifts to the church from the Memorial Fund enrich the ministry of First Baptist Church and honor the memory of loved ones and friends. Should anyone wish to consider a lasting tribute as a memorial, please contact any member of the Memorial Committee.

—Lois Anderson, Peggy Avance,
Nancy Follmer, Sandy Keller, Thelma Stanger
Evelyn Maddox, Chairperson

Corrections and Additions To The Courier

Please update your directory with these additions or changes. Call the church office with additions or changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Gresinger, Bernie & Martha January - April
5251 Mahogany Run # 516
Sarasota, FL 34241

Kimble, Dale & Merle November - April 9th
17547 Bridal Court
Jupiter, FL 33478

Pickett, Barry & Verna January - April
20 Brookshire Drive
Nokomis, FL 34275-1809
Phone # 513-535-6370

Wilson, Lil December 26 - March 6
7085 Bayou West Place
Pinellas Park, FL 33782



Christmas Eve
Tuesday
December 24
6 o'clock

We will meet together as a church family to praise and worship the One whom God provided for our redemption! Join us and share in the singing of carols, a devotional message from the pastor, Christmas communion service, and a candle lighting service. Bring your entire family, your out-of town guests, and friends for this hour which will prepare your heart for Christmas day, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Student Ministries December Calendar

Wednesday, December 2 - Gospel John/Games

Sunday, December 6 - Gaga Night

Wednesday, December 9 - Gospel John/Games

Sunday, December 13 - Christmas Caroling & Party

Wednesday, December 16 - Church Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 20 - No Student Ministries

Wednesday, December 23 - No Student Ministries

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 27 - No Student Ministries

Wednesday, December 30 - No Student Ministries

Thursday, December 31 - UNITED

Blessed Be The Name!

At 10:30 Sunday morning, December 13th, the KingsKids and Chancel Choir will come together to present *Blessed Be The Name!* It's a wonderful time for us to celebrate Jesus' birth in song with special guest musicians. Katie Simpson and Laurin Sprague will be co-directing this very special musical event. You won't want to miss it.

–Laurin Sprague

Cherub Choir

The Cherub Choir will present their musical Christmas gift to Jesus, *I Played My Drum For Him*, during morning worship on Sunday, December 6th, the second Sunday of Advent.

–Marsha Helton & Sydney Wilson



The Deaconesses will have a carry-in Christmas Brunch Saturday, December 12th, in Room 200 at 10:00 a.m. There will also be a short meeting with election of officers for 2016. All new deaconesses for 2016 are also invited to attend.



Cookies and Candies Needed!

As the carolers go out, they take a tin filled with homemade Christmas goodies to leave at each home visited. We are in need of cookies and candies to fill these tins. You may bring the goodies and place them on a table outside the Family Center by Thursday, December 10th.

W

*Together with their Parents
Miss Natalie Marie Banks and
Mr. Mark Thomas Whipple
Request the honor of your presence
as they exchange their wedding vows
Music to begin
at five o'clock in the evening
Ceremony to follow at half past five
o'clock
Thursday, the thirty-first of December
Two thousand and fifteen
First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio*



Caroling

Christmas Caroling

We will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 13th, and enjoy light snacks, coffee, and cider served by the Family Life Committee, a little fellowship with one another, and divide into teams to receive assignments for this very special mission. We will leave promptly at 4:30 p.m. to deliver tins of homemade cookies and sing carols to our shut-ins. It is guaranteed that you will receive the greater blessing as you bring Christmas cheer into the homes of our shut-ins. Bring your little ones as they love to have the children visit them. Please sign the list on the bulletin board if you plan to join us for caroling.



God Has The Grand Plan

In 2004, my plan was to retire in New Orleans, Louisiana, work in our church, fish, hunt, and travel with my wife Maxine and watch my grass grow. That was not God's plan.

In 2005, with the event called hurricane Katrina, we were led to relocate to Ohio. Following the Holy Spirit, we moved to Hamilton, in 2006, where we were blessed with a home and led to join the First Baptist Church family. This has proven to be one of the most enjoyable and blessed periods of our lives. We were blessed to be joined with some of the most Christian and prayerful people we have known. We have been ministered to, taught and fellowshiped with the finest and warmest of God's representatives. Because of this experience with the FBC family, from the Board of Deacons to the committees and choir, our lives have been enriched and our Christian faith has grown. But once again, GOD has shown us another part of his Grand Plan.

Maxine and I have many health issues that must be addressed and God in his infinite wisdom has made a way. We do not always understand his plan but we have learned through the years, sometimes the hard way, to prayerfully follow his guidance. We are blessed to have children that have a strong desire to care for us in our golden years and through our medical issues. After much prayer and discussion, the decision was made that they could best do this if we were located closer to them. So they are moving us to Washington, state for this purpose. The hardest part of this decision was reconciling the fact that we would be leaving our FBC family. We feel that GOD is leading and we will surely follow. We feel truly blessed to have children that are taking care of everything including coming here to move us. GOD has a Grand plan for us. We don't know what it is in its entirety, but we will follow wherever he leads us.

We can never thank you, our FBC family, for the kindness and love you have shown us. This is a blessing that we will always treasure and never forget. You have shown us true Christian love. We will follow the services online and wish to maintain contact with you. We will send our contact information ASAP.

Maxine and I wish to thank everyone in advance that volunteered to help us with the move. We will be moving on December 1, 2015. GOD bless all of you and please keep us in your prayers.

As always, your brother and sister in Christ Jesus,
Walter II & Maxine L. Hillman

(Addresses of those who have served
us over the years.)

Rev. & Mrs. Branan Becknell
47 Acadia Drive
Rockland, Maine 04841

Rev. & Mrs. Jim Bell
8206 Hampton Bluff Terrace
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Rev. & Mrs. James Flye
1159 W. Chester Pike, K11
West Chester, PA 19382

Rev. & Mrs. Steve Gage
1252 10th Street SW
Valley City, ND 58072

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Martin
26W235 Gerome Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Rev. & Mrs. Adam Metzger
110 Chapel Hill
Battle Creek, MI 49015

Dr. & Mrs. Dennis Metzger
1086 Arbor Springs Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Metzler
3494 Oxford-Middletown Road
Trenton, Ohio 45067

Cherie Young Owens
109 Timberland Drive
Canton, Georgia 30114

Pastor Tim Schwartz
2921 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66102

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Soderholm
3292 N White Heather Place
Tucson, Arizona 85750

Rev. & Mrs. Jeremy Spence
833 E. State Street
Traverse City, MI 49686

Dr. & Mrs. Douglass Willey
5506 Cherryleaf Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

December 6 - Teene Campbell & Kalyne
 December 13 - Linda & Larry Wallace
 December 20 - Carolyn Dudley & Teen Helper
 December 27 -

Toddler

December 6 - Cheryl Lambertson, Emma & Hannah Imhoff
 December 13 - Cheryl Lambertson & Barb Hendricks
 December 20 - Cheryl Lambertson, Emma & Hannah Imhoff
 December 27 - Barb & Brian Begley, KK & Lyndsay

Kiddie Church

December 6 - Brandi Emenaker
 December 13 - Deb Clemens & Anna Wallace
 December 20 - Cheryl Motzer, Syd & Noëlle
 December 27 - Cheryl Motzer, Syd & Noëlle

Kinderchurch

December 6 - Jill O'Hara & Dorothy Hollowell
 December 13 - Cheryl Motzer, Syd & Noëlle
 December 20 - Jill O'Hara & Dorothy Hollowell
 December 27 - Cheryl Motzer, Syd & Noëlle

(December 27th Kiddie Church & Kinderchurch combined)



Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

We have many slots available for our workers to sign up to be in nursery, toddler and kiddie church. Please see Cheryl if you can help out with any of these areas. We also would like to have someone to help out with Karen Buchanan during KidsChurch in room 200 during the sermon. If you have a child in any of these areas, please consider taking a turn to help out. A helper with Karen Buchanan would be someone to be with her, oversee restroom breaks, etc. as an extra adult. With our church growing in attendance, our workers need to grow in numbers too. Call Cheryl 608-8468, text, facebook, or see at church to volunteer. Thanks so much.



Wednesday Family Dinners

December 2

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy, Hash Brown Casserole
 Hosts: Yada Sisterhood/Men's Class

December 9

Menu: Soup Beans & Cornbread, Fried Potatoes, Chopped Onion, Tossed Salad, Loretta's Texas Sheetcake
 Hosts: Keystone

December 14 - Christmas Banquet

Menu: Turkey & Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Ambrosia, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Variety of Pies
 Hosts: Trustees

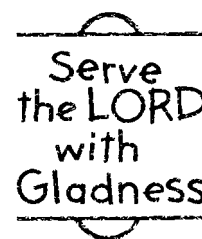
December 23 & 30

There will be no meal because of Christmas break

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$5.00 per person for the meal (including children who eat from the main table), \$15 per family (those living in the same household), and \$1.50 for children under twelve who eat from the hot dog table. Be sure to make your reservation on the Friendship Folder each Sunday.

The cost for the Christmas Dinner, December 14th, will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 12; \$15 for **immediate family living in the same household**. Make your reservation on the green sheet in the Fellowship Folder.

Reminder: Anyone desiring to borrow items, such as, chairs, tables, coffee pots, etc. are now required to fill out a sheet in the office with name, date, item, and number borrowed and then the date, item, and number returned. Please see Ellie.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

December 2015

		1 9:30 MOPS Steering Committee	2 5:45 Family Dinner 5:45 Awana 6:30 Student Ministries 6:30 Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir & KingsKids Cantata	3	4	5 9:00 Men's Prayer Gathering 7:30 HFSO <i>The Majesty of Christmas</i>
6 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship-Cherubs <i>I Played My Drums For Him</i> 6:00 KingsKids 6:00 Student Ministries - Gaga 6:00 Evening Ministries	7	8 10:30 Holloway & Abell Circles Christmas Gathering @ Berkeley's Party Room 6:00 Smith Circle Christmas Gathering at Berkeley's Haith Room	9 5:45 Family Dinner 5:45 Awana Christmas Parties 6:30 Student Ministries 6:30 Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir & KingsKids Cantata	10 11:30 Matthew 25 Christmas luncheon for volunteers 6:30 Trustee Christmas Gathering @ Berkeley	11	12 10:00 Deaconess Christmas Brunch 10:00 Chancel Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship - Cantata <i>"Blessed Be The Name"</i> 4:00 Carolers gather for Light Snacks 4:30 Carol to shut-ins Student Ministries Christmas Party	14 11:00 Women's Christian Book Club @ Fairfield Library	15 9:30 MOPS	16 6:00 Christmas Banquet	17	18	19
20 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 College Students' Breakfast 4:30 Board of Deacons 10:30 Worship 6:00 Evening Ministries	21 5:30 Meal for Serve City	22	23 No Evening Programs	24 6:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25 Have A Blessed Christmas!!	26
27 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 C.E. Board 6:00 Evening Ministries	28 6:30 Cabinet Meeting	29	30 No Evening Programs	31 New Years Eve! 9:00 Student Ministries - UNITED 5:00 Banks/Whipple Wedding		

December

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 - Melissa Geiss
Martha Griffin
Scott McRoberts

2 - Janice Adams
Teresa Patrick
Olive Belle Young

3 - Mike Braun
Jordan Brown
Arah Mae Williams

5 - John Riczko

7 - Dottie Jackson

8 - Mike Click
Luella Lerch
Justin Van Meter

10 - Amber Farmer
Daniel French
Barry Pickett
Linda Stanger

11 - Zakory Evan Dudley
Juli Ford
Carl Lakes
Jennifer Wallace
Noëlle Wilson

12 - Larry Bowling
Walter Jackson
Abigail Riczko

13 - Kim Schuermann

14 - Brad Begley
Brandi Emenaker
Earl Gabbard
Leigh Anne Gribble
Alexander Sprague
Michael Stanger
J. K. Walker
Kim Wolter

15 - Dan Morrow

16 - Jack W. Baker
Dan Clemens

17 - Bart Reed
Landon James Johnson

18 - Sharon Braun Benzing
Daniel Hounshell

20 - Lindsey Minnich
Joseph Wallace

21 - Brooke Begley
Susan Zeek

22 - Paul "Bud" Braun

23 - Zachary Beltz
Brad Hoover
Kris Simpson
Andrew Walker

24 - Marilyn Becknell
Chuck Witmer

26 - Beth Payne
Loretta Hampton

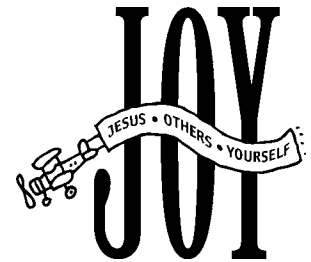
27 - John Haberthier
Steve Turner
Nathan Walker

29 - Brian Dickman
Thomas Farris
Karen Gerth
Shirley Henson
Chuck Riczko
Lil Wilson
Judy Young

30 - Alex Caswell
Judy Farris
Ralph Shearer
Dylan Spicer

31 - Darryl Paragin

Note: Please call the church office if you notice that one of your family members has been inadvertently overlooked on the birthday calendar. We do not intend to overlook anyone but do not realize it unless you inform us.



First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone: 513-868-1412



Personal Notes

From Sharon Braun Benzing

Thank you all for the cards, thoughts, prayers and wonderful food sent to us through my recent surgery. All has gone amazingly well and I am preparing to return to work in a couple of weeks. You are all so amazing and I appreciate each of you. God has been so gracious through this process as I depend on His strength to do what I could not do alone. Thank you all again!

From Curtis Bradbury

The heart remembers kind deeds and thoughtfulness. My heart remembers special people like all of you. Thank you so much! Your thoughtfulness and your prayers are greatly appreciated!

From Guy Hefner

Thanks to all of my FBC friends for their continued prayer, concern, cards, and visits since July 30th when I underwent heart bypass surgery at Kettering Heart Hospital. Praise God the heart surgery was a wonderful success. But after returning to rehab in Hamilton, I suffered bi-lateral lung hemorrhage from a blood thinner. I spent 6 days on a ventilator in ICU at Fort Hamilton Hospital then another week in the IMC there. I was later transferred to Doverwood for extensive treatment and therapy. Praise the Lord my strength began to return in September and am now at home recovering with more cardio rehab at Fort Hamilton Hospital. God has blessed me and our family in so many ways. I praise Him!

From Ralph Jones

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, telephone calls, visits, prayers and gifts of food while I was recuperating during my recent bout with C Diff and Fall Risk problems. I especially thank Pastor Bill Brantingham for his three visits to me while I was in the hospital and at Doverwood.

From Dick Law

Again I write to you to "Thank you" all for the prayers that were said for my return to health. I was placed in UC Medical Hospital last Wednesday with a high potassium level, low blood pressure, and dehydration. I told Mary, "Pastor Bill will be here." Thursday afternoon I awoke from a nap and there he stood smiling cane in hand. We talked about the Lord, my family, and some things in our past. Thursday evening things started turning around for me and Friday even better news. I would be able to return home Saturday. Hope to be back to church soon. Pastor Bill is a blessing to our church and has a way of giving you hope. Again thank you all, my wife who is the love of my life, my children, Pastor Bill, the staff at the hospital, and to Bert for sharing Bill with us.



The Courier is a monthly publication of The First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio. Deadline for articles to be submitted is the fifteenth day of each month. The Pastor: Dr. Dan Clemens; Editor: Ellie Dinger. Our purpose statement: *We are believers in Jesus Christ, called of God, Gathering for Worship; Instruction and Fellowship...Scattering for Care, Evangelism and Transformation of the World for His Kingdom.*

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